

# Earth First!



## NOT ANOTHER RTS...

*"If we quit, they win" Agent Mulder, The X-Files film*

The police wanted Not Another RTS in Sheffield, but then so did the 'organisers', intending it to be in the spirit of the old 70s Jubilee street parties, minus the Queen. A dual carriageway location was negotiated, and a few hundred partygoers, 'protected' by about three times that number of cops taking many holiday snaps and videos of the colourful throng, and a helicopter, proceeded to play football & human draughts to the rhythms of Orpheus (Sheffield's very own 'Rinky Dink' pedal-powered sound system), before being escorted to a pedestrianised area.

Bristol - "We're up for it today, we know you're just a bunch of professional anarchists", sez Chief Inspector Copper. And so they were, with mounted police, helicopter, and many baton-beatings, plus the use of CS gas. The sound system didn't get through, an 8 foot long hedgehog was squashed, but the police's reaction only made people more determined, and by the end of the day, there were up to 500 RTSers. The planned roundabout location was blocked by police all day, so party-goers spilled onto surrounding roads, including the M32, to be met by mounted police. 59 arrests, 8 charged. Nearby IKEA, currently the target of a local campaign, closed for the weekend and hired security.

This is a monthly round-up of ecological direct action news and forthcoming events in Britain.

There is more about Earth First! inside this newsletter, as well as a list of contacts.

## FASLANE - TRIDENT

Despite experiencing only two days of sunshine in 13 weeks of rain, the damp but jolly souls at Faslane peace camp continue to cause merry hell with the laughable base 'security'. 8 campers broke in and played football. After seeing the formidable camp defences on telly, the cash-strapped local council agreed to talks with residents to try to find an amicable (& cheaper!) solution. Activists from Ploughshares Trident 2000 set up a second camp at Coulport to begin two weeks of accountable nuke-base disarmament. Actions have been numerous and varied - blockades, fence-cuttings, 'citizen's inspections', repainting MoD property (Khaki is so dull), an early music gate blockade, and swimming to within yards of the evil subs themselves 3 times over - with over 100 arrests, and two remanded until 22 September (see Prisoners). Faslane folk showed their gratitude to the crew of the NV Greenpeace by delaying for 2 hours - they locked-on - a trawler which had been hired by oil companies to trail the ship. With ongoing actions, 97 people pledged to NVDA so far, and another action camp at Faslane in November, there's plenty more to come.

## EARTH FIRST! "SUMMER" GATHERING

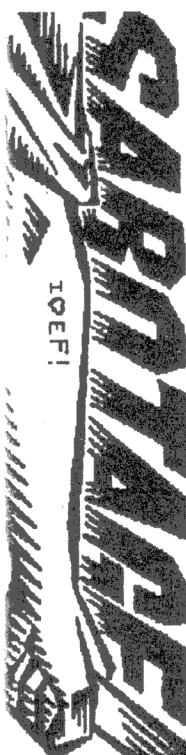
The time has come for the eco-direct action gathering of the year - it runs from Wednesday 9th to Monday 14th September and will be held in Somerset. There are lift shares from around the country, so get on down. There will be a reception, reading library, kids' space, workshop spaces, and organic vegan food at £2 a day. We will be camping (a women-only space will be provided), so bring a tent. Limited space for parking and live-in vehicles available near to the site.

The exact location is kept secret until the day before it starts. Entrance is £10 a person, and everybody will pay this - even workshops-givers and organisers, so everything stays as cheap as possible for everyone.

Strictly no dogs will be allowed on site for a variety of reasons, and there is a proposal to have no drinking of alcohol on site before dinner. Guidelines will be decided in the first site meeting.

This year, the programme will be split between workshops and large discussions covering topics such as tactics, strategy and long-term sustainability. There will also be UK and International Campaigns' Forums to give people an opportunity to tell others about their group, campaign or forthcoming actions. There will be a variety of evening entertainment - offers are always welcome.

For more information - or a map and details of how to get to the site - send a SAE to: EF! Summer Gathering, c/o Leeds EF! The site will be over the weekend with the 0061 267421



...not just... the Ozymandias Direct Action & Sabotage Handbook (the British 'Ecodefense') - quietly ask around, or surf the web: <[www.cafefunderground.com/Cafesite/Rooms/Ozymandias/handbook\\_1.htm](http://www.cafefunderground.com/Cafesite/Rooms/Ozymandias/handbook_1.htm)>

## THE REVOLUTION IS BEING TELEVISED....

ALF activists heard that police wanted to search a property. As they made sure there was always someone at home, one day a Housing Benefit officer arrived, with plain clothes copper in tow, who was introduced as her boss. As he had no ID, and gave the name 'Mr Smith', he was not allowed entry. The HB officer didn't stay long, as Mr Smith was busy taking down a vehicle number plate outside. The benefit office was instructed to confirm Mr Smith worked there, but was 'unavailable' when phoned. By chance, the plucky house-dwellers found out they were under further surveillance, when their neighbours told them that they could faintly make out their house on their TVs, in place of soon-to-be-received Channel 5. From the image, it was worked out roughly where the camera was, but this was inside a house. However, in a nearby local water authority outhouse a 12 metre-high tripod with microwave receiver pointed at the camera a mile away was found. The gizmo was connected to a TV monitor and slow record video machine. Over the next few weeks, each day, a plainclothed copper turned up to change the cassette. One day, all the equipment was liberated, and is now in a safe and loving home. This kind of surveillance is used before a more intensive (& expensive) operation can be sanctioned.

Meanwhile, at Hillgrove, 20 *agents provocateurs* with fake ear and nose rings shouted abuse at their copper-colleagues before changing openly (accountably?) into their police overalls...

A 'longsuffering' Undercurrents journalist, who made the feature on coppers' harassment of journalists, was arrested again whilst filming police violence at Bristol RTS. A Bristol-based documentary maker was arrested while reporting on an anti-GE protest in Totnes, his house raided with video tapes, computer hard drive, and various written materials seized. Someone who recently videotaped inside Cornyhaugh milk farm, Northumberland, to highlight the conditions, was injured under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (to protect women from being stalked), then arrested and given a nighttime house curfew.

## NOT A LOT-MENTS

Allotments are the next target for development in many towns that are paying lip service to not developing greenfield sites. Local councils have recently been given power to dispose of them, though central government managed to ditch over 53 in the last year. Railtrack issued eviction orders for all their allotment sites, but withdrew after protest. At the end of the enclosure movement around the 1850s, the sop of allotments on crappy land was given to shut up the 'working man'. Resist enclosure! Contact TLJO.

## HOTTING UP

A planned supermarket development on the largest empty space in South Sheffield, where 3 already exist within a mile, is being opposed. The Tysak site was occupied for a weekend to show alternative uses of the site, with cricket and football pitches and a cinema put up, and though it rained and rained all weekend, local kids came to play, as did those employed by the council. Contact via Sheffield EPI:

Sharston Green is a 28 acre green site on the Manchester/Stockport border, owned by Manchester Airport AMEC etc. Planning permission has been granted (surprise!) to build houses, industrial estate (flight simulator planned) and a gritty hotel/pub fast-poison outlet. The campaign to save this space includes ongoing Village Green applications, and calling in the Onbudsman about collusion. Construction work commenced just recently, and many mature oak trees were felled. The pond is being drained and the area attacked by bulldozers. We're getting well starved - desperate situation - call 0161-998 1888/491 5560

Bridgewater, Somerset: Local opposition building against 1000 new houses that will trash greenbelt land - need help opposing planning application, and direct action advice - 01278 424146

Xanadu, Europe's largest indoor leisure complex, planned on 70 acres of wildlife corridor, with a 3,500 car park. It requires a new busway (on old railway line which is a wildlife corridor), then connects to ordinary roads into Manchester. The campaign's just started, with a rally of 35 horses & 100 people, and 4 public meetings so far. Contact via the Campaign Legal Group.

The M4 relief road - £320 million worth of six lane motorway through 5 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the internationally important Gwent Levels - is still in the Welsh roads programme, pending an announcement later in the year, making it the most expensive and destructive road planned for anywhere in the UK - CALM <[amanda@marin7.demon.co.uk](mailto:amanda@marin7.demon.co.uk)>

## GENE ARRESTS

11 people were arrested as they attempted to uproot GE sugar beet just south of Lincoln, as part of a geneticX snowball action. 8 new members of the local group were arrested by the waiting police, as they reached the release site. The remaining three were successful in uprooting 10 beet before also being arrested for criminal damage, attempted criminal damage and going equipped to cause criminal damage with gardening tools; no charges have yet been pressed. The police and farmer were notified in advance of the time and place. A letter to the Environment Agency asked them to safely dispose of the GE material. The Monsanto injunction against the first 5 snowballers lists all their release sites. 13 people were arrested after the decontamination of a genetics release site in Totnes, Devon, two charged with criminal damage of £605,000, curfews and daily reporting to a cop-shop imposed. The others are awaiting the results of forensic tests. The site was the subject of a high-profile court case, in which a farmer was fighting to retain his organic status, threatened by nearby GE cross-pollination. Over thirty people, many local, uprooted maize before it flowered. The site had 24 hour security guard surveillance following an abortive attempt. Properties in Somerset, Devon, Bristol, Sheffield and London were raided by police after the arrests. Locals held a public meeting, and a 300-strong demo at the court case of the 2 "should be seen as a community response to the corporate assault on our land".

Despite Mutant slapping injunctions and recent arrests, actions continue to grow. 5 people openly pulled GE oilseed rape near Dundee. They were arrested and charged with aggravated trespass and malicious mischief, but charges were dropped after 50 hours, just before they were due in court. There have been conflicting reports as to whether the crop was GE.

One Sunday a group of about ten local residents decided to go to church. But instead of attending a religious service they decided it might be more useful to dig up some Monsanto sugar beet at Church Farm, in Norfolk. It took place in broad daylight, though it's still unclear if anybody other than them saw God!

Potatoes with the inserted genes of chickens, jellyfish, sunflowers, viruses and bacteria to name but a few, were all too much for one group who decontaminated 20 of Leeds Uni's GE plots. Their lookouts spotted hare shooters in a pick-up truck with a powerful spotlight, but they weren't going to be caught in the headlights, no sure.

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

The remains of the once-huge roads programme was slashed even further in the Roads Review. Only 37 schemes - including M25 widening and Bingley - are planned for the next 7 years, with over 100 scrapped, deferred, or given to local authorities to worry about.

**Reclaim the Streets!** The Film tells the story with words, images, music and lots of action. 80 minutes long, £6 unwaged, £8 waged, £10 well waged. Cheques payable to: Augustin Gutierrez, 72 Castlewood Rd, London N16 6DH, and write if you want a film showing in your area.

There's "a kick-ass group in Minneapolis (USA, dub), currently doing the Earth First! UK style campaign. Road blockade, Housing Occupation. Don't worry, we're doing it up right. We got american indian movement folk helping out too."

**The US Earth First! Journal** is looking for volunteers to come help edit for 6 weeks in Eugene, Oregon. If you're interested, you'll get \$400, accommodation and?

**The Advisory Service for Squatters** need volunteers, cash, and info. Ways to help: send your local squat group details in for file updating, start a new group, stock/promote the Squatter's Handbook and Section 6 notices.

Up to 4,000 people danced at Finland's 4th RTS, with trees planted & a pro-Zapista demo as part of the day.

Rumours are the Newbury Bypass may open on 8 Nov.

150 European activists at the **Kala anti-nuclear camp**, a 24-hour police watch, a banner hanging on the power plant's admin building roof, and a blockade of the entrance. The anti-terrorist nuke plant guard have announced their plans to do violent raids on the camp, and local government are starting to talk about developing wind power sources for the area.

The 2 remaining **Gandalf defendants** are still awaiting a date for trial, though the convictions of the 3 who spent 5 months inside were quashed on appeal.

Another **global day of action** has been proposed for Friday 18.6.99 - a day of carnival, chaos, protest and action in **financial centres**, coinciding with the G8 meeting in Köln, Germany. The goal is to strengthen our international networks from the Global RTS, and show that the global system, based on exploitation of people and planet, for profit for the few, is at the root of our troubles. Join the international discussion: <tsdiscussion@gn.apc.org>

**Travelers beware** - no, it's not your drugs, but your propaganda. Someone was refused holiday-visa entry at Heathrow when a search revealed anti-roads protesting literature, and a similar incident occurred at Australian customs. Send your 'smash-the-state' leaflets afloat.

**Live Wild or Die #7**, POB 481, Tucson, AZ 85702, USA.

In the last month there have been seven decontaminations (including one only partly). Actions have varied in style, with stealthy nocturnal raids, daylight decontaminations, and accountable snowball actions: the important thing is that the job is getting done. The biotech multinationals are finding that their scheme to turn our land into a giant laboratory will not be easy. Although 35 ex-sites is impressive, there's still over 300 British test sites - loads left to do. Contact GEN on how to get involved, or for help on finding your local GE sites.

## BREWERY FIELDS FOREVER

"How different the movement of a tree breathing the night air that rocks you to sleep, to vibrations of the leaves as the digger hits the roots. There is now a 30 foot channel carved through the woodland and meadows, and 17 nicked activists.

Brewery Fields, a beautiful piece of common land in Bangor, unploughed for 40 years, a marvellous view of the sea prized by local residents and potential developers alike. When the bulldozers threatened to move in, and after 5 years of fighting planning permission, we set up camp on the site of the development, but were tortured out of our lock-ons (we're taking them to court). We then moved in to stop the access road. 25 acres would be set aside as a nature park, but they still intended further housing developments on the remaining 16. A deal was offered to avoid this last eviction - "come down and we'll cause minimal damage".

While negotiations were going on, more used walkways to get up trees, before the deal was refused. Rope bridges were cut with unharmed protesters on them; others were violently wrestled out of the trees. They tried to hack away at a tunnel with a shovel, only damaging the door, so blocking the occupant's only exit. We held out for 22 hours. So we've won 25 acres but there may be more to do; outline planning permission originally granted 40 years ago has recently been renewed, and the planning committee is a quango stuffed with potential developers. They may think again about developing now they know the local 'silly haircut, sit in a tree and shout' brigade is still around."

## CAMP IT UP

the 1 October. Under UN & international child protection legislation, kids have the right to be heard, consulted and to participate in environmental decisions affecting their future. A local councillor didn't like being told where to stick his Agenda 21, so he's been threatening campers with violence as he pours on the abuse - "We can't afford to evict you. Fuck off while you've still got time". Petrol has been poured on a tent and set fire to, stones thrown, and the campaign desk was also smashed under cover of night; the council is believed to know something about these events. The camp's been there for 4 or 5 months, occupying prime (stockbroker belt) development land, woods, & a house.

**Green Guard in Nantwich**, has been stopping a housing development of 500 houses and a 4 mile dual carriageway for the last 6 weeks. Under threat are (rare) Black Poplars, an orchard and hedgerows up to 30 foot thick. The allotments next door have all been given notices to quit too. The camp boasts treehouses, tunnel, tower, and 97% local support. Local media are on side.

In Hulme, the popular Poplar 24-hour guard wasn't quite, and so Manchester council started chopping the 110 year old Birley Tree down before people stopped the chainsaws. The campaign went to court to be evicted, and negotiated an agreement not to fell the Black Poplar till a detailed planning application was put in for the hotel the council so desperately want for this inner-city area. This has followed meetings, petitions, Fun-days, a carnival float, and a procession to the Town Hall where severed branches blocked the entrance whilst demonstrators danced.

At Ashton Court, preparation work is being done for the 'translocation' (trashing) of the wildflower meadow (surrounded by 7 foot high spiky fence), which is meant to start at the beginning of this month. It'll take four months, but if delayed till January, they'll then be too late to start it till autumn '99. A second camp has been set up, the new 'New State of Bulgaria', where secret tunnel building has been happening over recent months. As we go to press, preparations for the weekend of action, party and workshops go on apace.

In Bushey Park, a protest camp to stop a housing development has been set up, including developing Grade 2 listed buildings, and an old MoD torpedo shell testing dome. Campaigners instead want an education and environmental centre, & with 3,000 supporters and much in donations, it looks good. The camp was moved off the development site in order to show goodwill for negotiations, with the original site now fenced off.

## EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 Huntingdon Life Sciences Demo, meet noon, main gates - contact 01394 384 583
- 9-14 Earth First! National Gathering, Dorset; contact via Leeds EFi
- 11-13 TLIO national gathering, Bristol, including allotment-linked land occupation, 0585 132080 or office
- 16-20 Faith and Resistance Gathering II - contact 0171 663 1000
- 17-19 Groundswell Forum, Sheffield, for housing activists; homeless survivors etc - 0171 833 2071
- 19 MAL-Day conference, London, 01268 682820 (vs Multilateral Agreement on Investment/globalisation)
- 19-20 Stop the Avon Ring Road, Reclaim the Country Equinox party (M32 J1 go east onto ring road, 4 roundabouts till end & there is party site)
- 19-20 Genetix Harvest Festival, Cambridge: affinity group preparation & action. Contact genetix snowball
- 22-24 Close Copex 2-day mass blockade, Wembley, London - contact Campaign Against the Arms Trade, 0171 281 0297, <caat@gn.apc.org>
- 24-28 Alternative Cornwall Convergence, Keveral Farm - Box Convergence, Bredeford, Bread Street, Penzance, 01736 810156
- 26-Oct 3 Abolition Days and Citizens Inspections - 0171 700 2393 for local action info
- 30-1 Oct National Anti-Nukes Action, 'Disgrace the Base!', meet 8pm 30th at Secular Hall, Humberside Gate, Leicester, for briefings, food, sleep, transport next morning - details via Leeds EFi
- OCTOBER
- 2-15 Global days of action against GE - GEN

## CRITICAL MASS

"mass bike rides reclaiming space back from the car"

- 1st Saturday each month: Birmingham, Victoria Square, 12 noon, Hull, opposite train station, 5pm
- 1st Monday: Newcastle, Monument, Gateshead, 6
- 2nd Friday: W. London, Shepherds Bush Green, 6
- 3rd Friday: Southampton, Bargate, 6pm
- 4th Friday: Nottingham, Market Square, 5:15pm
- last Friday: Manchester, St Peter's Square, 5pm, Edinburgh, the Mound, 5:30pm, Exeter, Paris St Cafe, by the bus stop, 5:15pm, London, Waterloo



Mutant veg recently invaded Taunton Safeways, shouting "Resist us if you can!" Shopping trolleys were labelled with "Contaminated" stickers, but the mutant veg escaped before police arrived, with the chilling message - "We'll be BACK." Defence plans are being formed.

Bristol-based video activists i-Contact Video Network welcome all those who want to promote the production of short films about campaigning issues - 0117 914 0188

The OKasional squat cafe II opened recently by a canal in Manchester's red light district, a possession order was granted after about 3 weeks, though the judge termed the occupation "honourable and ecologically sensitive". It's reopened at an old pub at 111, Newton Street. Eviction unlikely. Contact via MEF!

Following Ecotopia in Freiburg, Germany, Euroocean festival goes held a RTS with hand-painted car victims, Death, and hipods, & built on their new 'carwaling' skills.

One of last month's South Downs the Land is Ours Mass Trespasses ended at Glyndebourne Opera House, where 50 crashed a lunch do. "The Dispossessed have returned."

The GMO roadshow is a touring anti-GM event, to link up with any public meeting you organise in your area. Contact via the Earth Circus Network.

Around 120 people went to the hot WCA Gathering in Radstock. Afterwards activists surrounded the Tor Works Quarry offices (due for expansion), then disrupted road construction at Dead Woman's Bottom.

A court decided a shopper who put a 'Contaminated' sticker on a packet of GE contaminated 'Beanfeast' was (eventually) found not guilty of intending to cause public alarm.

Tarmac want to extend a quarry in Sherwood Forest. A picnic and a Bear the Bulldozer pledge have happened.

## PRISONERS

Rose Browning (ME3630) HMP Eastwood Park, Fairfield, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 8DB (6 months); Richard Dixon (BK7218) HMP Horfield, Cambridge Road, Bristol BS7 8PF (12 months) - both for 'conspiring' to cut the railway line at Whalley Quarry & as a deterrent to others because eco-protest was becoming "so popular".

Jens Light, HMP Greenock, Greenock PA16 9AH; Angie Zelter, Helen John, Hanna Jarvinen, Katri Siltonen, Kristina van Velzen, HMP Compton Vale, Compton Road, Striving FK9 5NY (remanded till 22/29 September) for Trident Ploughshares 2000

Ben Thompson (BV5705), c/o the Governor, HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Bicester OX6 0PR (3 months) for Hillgrove & on hunger strike till he gets vegan GM-free diet. Animal rights prisoners list from ALF SG: international & others from Spirit of Freedom/Earth Liberation Prisoners.

The Bingley Bypass Camp almost tatted down recently. The same people have been sustaining it for 2 years, and the road was recently given the official go-ahead. However, a few remain there for the next month, by which time it will be known when it's likely to be built, and so when an eviction can be expected. £20 million's already been spent on pre-works. Eviction possibly early next year.

Good local support & skip, and a ground hut on stilts. The decision whether to de-camp will be taken on how many people can stay there long term, so get down there soon - ring mobile or Leeds EFi!

Cheltenham's first protest camp, Toytown, has solid local support and a fantastic vibe on site, with momentum building - due partly to a 'no drink, no drugs' policy. "Just like Wyndham Hill in Yeovil a couple of years ago, the political will isn't really there. If we can get rid of the profit motive, then Waitrose and their cronies will see sense and run." Local people are angry because their children will lose the only playing field in the area. It's also one of the last green spaces in the area, a riverside wildlife habitat, including bats, two potential brownfield housing sites, and the historic Alstone Spa. Instead, the council has given permission for two new roads, 1,500 car parking spaces, a supermarket, a drive through fast food restaurant, a 10 screen cinema shed, a petrol station, a nightclub, a bowling alley, a theme pub and a private health and fitness centre, all of which Cheltenham already has. After 2 years, the campaign to protect the area has moved into direct action, setting up camp and organising high-profile stunts to embarrass the council and the 'developers'. The camp has a compost toilet, covered kitchen, office and benders. Come and build more treehouses, help with activities for the young people who use the woodland as a play area, and build a permaculture garden. We need climbing equipment, polyprop, tarps, building wood, vegan food, TOYS! and money. Visit!

Silver Birches Eco-Village in Epsom went to the High Court to be evicted, but the judge gave the 11 year old defendant a stay of execution until

with the court date looming. The National Trust are removing environmentalists (accused of "trampling on the ground") from their land in order to allow Manchester Airport to trash it. The issues at stake are: to highlight the National Trust selling off 'inviolable' land here and around the country (& getting a pay-off); to focus attention again on Runway 2 & further delay it; and to challenge the AMEC/Tarmac joint venture that's illegally destroying trees and hedgerows.

Victory for the Derby Bass Rec protesters who have started coming down from the rooftops following a council decision to change the road plans, saving the Recreation Ground and instead shaving away the verge. Fun days and a Planning for Real exercise were held.

St Mary's Churchyard campers in Southampton have disbanded the camp as the Church have scaled down their plans and gone back to the drawing board. It'll be 6 months before they put in the planning application, and they'll talk with campaigners at the end of this month. The camp had also been attacked one night by organised thugs not from the local area, who trashed tents, badly bruised someone's back and broke someone else's finger. Locals are completely supportive, and the camp will set up again if needed.

LMS Railway Station passengers in Oxford dropped a road down the front of the Sheldonian Theatre recently, a much better idea than trashing the trees in front of the station, to build a six-lane road junction next to the University's shiny new arms-funded Business School. In answer to the possession order recently granted, defendants have pulled their own strings - walkways, abseil lines and phone-trees. The camp is now a happy buzzing place preparing for an inventive, creative, full-on fun-packed anarchic pissake of an eviction... all we need is a drove more people! Come and join the world's first city-centre heritage protest camp - we have a No Drugs + No Alcohol rule, snug treehouses, cargo-nets, barricades, lockons, bunkers, and the world's first Sofa-Lock-On!

Crystal Palace recently had their possession order, and so are preparing to defend the site. A wormbe defendant appeared in court, and the eviction is being appealed. To join the eviction phone tree, ring 0181 659 3301.

Any group that gets the EFiAU sent to them must come to the AU stall at the Gathering, or write to us if you're not coming. Otherwise you'll be taken off the contact list. We can talk about how many copies you want, whether we want the AU to continue, and if we do, how to ensure it's future survival and wide availability.

IF YOU WANT TO INCLUDE A FLYER IN THE EFiAU, CONTACT US TO DISCUSS QUANTITY/DONATION.

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From: EFiAU, c/o  
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Subscriptions cost a minimum contribution of £5 for 12 issues (£8 Europe, £16 world). Send more if you can afford it to enable us to give free subscriptions to prisoners, etc. Cheques/postal orders payable to Earth First! Remember security - false names/ a care of address are best.

If the circle is ticked your subscription has run out - renew it now!



Bridge by NE1, 3pm, Sheffield, train station, 3pm,  
Guldford, train station, 5:15pm  
last Saturday: Glasgow, Byres Rd/Uni Ave, 2pm

## 'ACTION UPDATE: ONWARDS, UPWARDS, AND HEADING ACROSS THE PENNINES' - A VIEW FROM THE OUTGOING AU CREW

"A few years ago, when I hitched to my first EF! Gathering with a friend, we were picked up by someone with a job at Greenpeace who'd decided to go along to Snowdonia to see what we Earth First!ers were all about. Having stumbled across some (us) before even getting there, he decided to begin his quizzing on the way... Why, he asked, does Earth First! do this? And that? And not that? And shouldn't you have a policy on such-and-such, and be making a statement about so-and-so? We thought about that for a bit, probably for the first time. It seemed impossible to answer any of these questions without addressing some of his underlying analysis - for a start, apart from structural/philosophical assumptions, the idea that anyone within the EF! network might actually *agree* with anyone else about anything! But it suddenly seemed quite difficult to explain to someone with a job in a green organisation that had members, money, and official policies on just about everything. Eventually my friend decided to give it a go. "Well, you see," he said, hoping to make it all clear, "Earth First! doesn't actually *exist*."

I think the Greenpeace guy spent the Gathering still being confused, though I'm sure he had a good time. But I remembered that not very illuminating statement, because if you can add enough to it, it does kind of explain something unique about EF! as it exists currently: you can't join it, you just get on with it. But it has its manifestations - the Gathering, Do or Die, numerous actions - and the Action Update.

Now I could go on about EF! (supposedly) being a community or network or whatever-the-hell-it-is with unique room for diversity, change (I hope), political debate, etc, but I won't. The point is the importance of the Update, not just for the EF! network but potentially for the larger ecological/direct action/revolutionary movement. Yeah, alternative press is important anyway but the Update is a way to define and voice what it is we're doing, in a community that has, and should have, lots to say but little of the party-line definition of mainstream green groups. We, and other people not so involved, should be able to trace the continuities and changes within the movement though reading the Action Update. We can see the challenges we face up to and try to tackle. And through our actions, and reporting them, we speak of our visions, to the wider world and ourselves. We learn about what we're all up to round the country, and build a feeling of solidarity and community - togetherness. I once heard someone from a Southern peasants' movement that spanned many countries say: "What unifies us is diversity." I'd never thought of that before, but it does, so long as we try to make a bit of time for each other and our different ways of being and acting. In all of this, too, we have to remember that however loose and disparate we are, there is this vague network linking us. Together we are more possible than they could powerfully imagine. And if we put something into this network, rather than just expecting it to continue, we are more powerful too. This brings me back to the Action Update.

The EF!AU has been going for 7 years now. It's meant to change editorial group each year, thus sharing responsibility and avoiding institutionalising power and skills in one place. This helps avoid centralisation, and of course puts a huge strain on the poor activists who take it on. I'll be glad to pass it on. I'll be able to complain about the Manchester rain, do sundances, and get rained on, stop sitting in front of this screen in a cold basement, and get stuck back into campaigning.

In a recent Schnews, the folk who usually put it together announced their intention of going to the beach, and on their return expecting to see all the people who valued Schnews in the office busy producing it. Now Manchester, which the Update is leaving, and Leeds, where it is going, both have no beach, but imagine the spiritual equivalent. The Update has got to be a collective responsibility. It can be one of the best (only?) tools we have for outreach, if we make it so, on a national and a local basis. It can be a way of affirming what we're getting done, it can be a challenge to the meaningless drivel most people get fed by the media, a way into a different vision - if we both sort it out, and get it out there."

How? Okay, list follows:

**WRITE** your actions up. Don't just send the press releases or leaflets, send the stories in Update size and shape, as soon afterwards as you can, and certainly by the deadline (usually end of the month, but *check*). Do this every time you do anything. **DISTRIBUTE** copies. Take them everywhere you go - festivals, actions, meetings, university, work, weddings, funerals - you are challenging the 'reality' created by the press. **FLYPOST** it everywhere, so people who don't have any contact with the movement can get informed and involved. **FUNDRAISE**. We have a constant uphill struggle to ensure money from subscriptions cover costs, and right now, we're losing badly. The more money there is, the more free copies get out to everywhere. There's nothing else for cash to go on but printing and postage so you know it's doing something useful. Write **INSERTS**. They're generally to provide information for action, whether they're about an issue, or are a 'how to'. Send 'em in, they'll probably be used. Send action **PHOTOS, CARTOONS, DRAWINGS** - so will they, if they come out OK. **PROMOTE** the Update. Get your local bookshop to sell it, sell it on the street yourself, put it in other groups' mailouts, subscribe your local library, etc.

If you like it how it is, be part of creating it, if you don't, be part of changing it. Get on with it. The new contact details are:

EF!AU, c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB

0113 262 9365

<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>

EF! Website <<http://www.k2net.co.uk/ef>>

<p>London, West Sussex 01903 721615 <a href="mailto:andrew@earthfirst.org.uk">andrew@earthfirst.org.uk</a></p> <p>Bath EF! (as for West Country Activist) <b>01249 713742</b></p> <p>Blackburn EF! 12 Balmoral Road, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 2EW 01254 777079</p> <p>Bristol EF! c/o Box 51, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB 0117 939 3093</p> <p>Cambourne EF! c/o Hartis Farm, Copper Hill, Troon, Cambourne, Cornwall</p> <p>Cambridge EF! Box E, 12 Mill Road, Cambridge</p> <p>Cardiff EF! c/o Green Group, Glamorgan Uni SU, Pontypridd, Mid- Glamorgan CF37 1DL</p> <p>Cardigan Bay EF! Temperance House, Talliesin, Powys, Mid Wales</p> <p>Chichester EF! c/o West Sussex Wildlife Protection, PO Box 3058, Littlehampton, W. Sussex BN16 3LG</p> <p>Exeter Env. Network PO Box 185, Exeter EX4 4EW</p> <p>Fife EF! c/o 91 South Street, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9Q 01334 477411</p> <p><b>The GalGael Trust</b> 3/2, Linthouse, Govan Scotland G51 4AD</p> <p>Glasgow EF! PO Box 180, Glasgow G4 9AB</p> <p>Guildford EF! PO Box 217, Guildford GU1 1WS fax 01483 203212</p> <p>Gwendraeth Valley EF! Y Gymru Annibynnol, 24 Yr erw, Burry Port, Carmar SA16 0DA</p> <p>Gwynedd &amp; Mon EF! The Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX 01248 355821 <a href="mailto:afu01b@bangor.ac.uk">afu01b@bangor.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Hereford EF! Wern Derys Michaelchurch Escley Hereford HR2 0JZ 01981 510659</p> <p>Hillfort EF! 21 Tower Hill, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4DA 01249 650078</p> <p>Hull On Earth c/o PO Box 33, Hull HU1 1AA</p> <p>LEAF Box Z, 13 Biddulph St, Leicester LE2 1BH 0116 255 3223</p> <p>Leeds EF! c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 <a href="mailto:cornerstone@gn.apc.org">cornerstone@gn.apc.org</a></p>	<p>Liverpool L1</p> <p>Lune EF! 6 Bookcellar, 9 Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TJ 01524 849313</p> <p>Manchester EF! Dept 29, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1 1HW 0161 224 4846 <a href="mailto:mmod@acacatgthtrotok">mmod@acacatgthtrotok</a></p> <p>Mid-Somerset EF! PO Box 23, 5 High St, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PU</p> <p>Norfolk EF! The Greenhouse, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR</p> <p>Nottingham EF! c/o The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666</p> <p>Oldham EF! <b>Dept. 110, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1 1HW</b></p> <p>Oxford EF! Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ</p> <p>Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY 0171 281 4621 <a href="mailto:rts@gn.apc.org">rts@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>Reclaim the Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY</p> <p>Reading Roadbusters R.I.S. Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, Berkshire 0118 986 6362 <a href="mailto:chris_a@waveland.org">chris_a@waveland.org</a></p> <p>Sheffield EF! c/o SheFIN, <b>54 Upperthorpe Road, Sheffield S6 3EB</b> 0114 263 4494</p> <p>Southampton EF! SUSU Pigeonholes, Union Building, Southampton University, University Road, Southampton <a href="mailto:eco@soton.ac.uk">eco@soton.ac.uk</a></p> <p>South Devon EF! Birdwood House, 44 High St, Totnes, Devon 01626 363844</p> <p>South Downs EF! PO Box 2971, Brighton BN2 2TT <a href="mailto:savage@easynet.co.uk">savage@easynet.co.uk</a></p> <p>Swansea People EF! c/o Green Action, Swansea Uni SU, Swansea, Wales</p> <p>TAPP (Tyneside Action for People &amp; Planet) PO Box ITA, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1TA</p> <p>The Flat Oak Society c/o 3 St Alphege Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EB 01227 463368</p> <p>Upper Nene EF! Box E, 24 St. Michaels Ave, Northampton NN1</p> <p>Warwick EF! c/o Green Society, Warwick Uni SU, Coventry CV4 7AL <a href="mailto:suaad@csv.warwick.ac.uk">suaad@csv.warwick.ac.uk</a></p>	<p>c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs, Wolves Uni SU, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton</p> <p>York EF! c/o York LEAF PO Box 323, York</p> <p><b>PROPAGANDA</b></p> <p>Act Locally! c/o TAPP</p> <p>Contraflow c/o 56A Info Shop, 56 Crampton Street, London SE17 Fax: 0171 326 0353</p> <p>Corporate Watch (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 791391 <a href="mailto:mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk">mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk</a></p> <p>Counter Information c/o Transmission, 28 King Street, Glasgow G1 5QP</p> <p>Dead Trees EF! (distro) &amp; 'Do or Die' c/o South Downs EF!</p> <p><b>DELTA c/o LEAF</b></p> <p>EF! Action Update c/o <b>Leeds EF!</b> <a href="mailto:actionupdate@gn.apc.org">actionupdate@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>Genetic Update c/o GEN</p> <p>FINs - for a full list of Free Information Networks (&amp; more), send SAE to London FIN c/o 99, Torriano Ave, London NW5 2RX</p> <p>NottsFIN/Ned Ludds News (as for Nottingham EF!)</p> <p>The Porkbolter PO Box 4144, Worthing BN14</p> <p>Road Raging c/o Road Alert!</p> <p>Schnews/Justice? PO Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913 <a href="mailto:schnews@brighton.co.uk">schnews@brighton.co.uk</a></p> <p>Squall PO Box 8959, London N12 5HW 0171 561 1204 <a href="mailto:eds@squall.co.uk">eds@squall.co.uk</a></p> <p>Undercurrents 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX 4 1BG 01865 203661 <a href="mailto:underc@gn.apc.org">underc@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>West Country Activist c/o PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD <a href="mailto:wca@conk.com">wca@conk.com</a></p> <p>Y Ddeilen Werdd/The Green Leaf c/o G &amp; M EF! or <a href="mailto:JimK@undeb.bangor.ac.uk">JimK@undeb.bangor.ac.uk</a></p> <p><b>OTHER CONTACTS</b></p> <p>Acme Tat Supplies (protest-tat at cost) c/o Leeds EF!</p> <p>Advisory Service for Squatters 2, St Pauls Road, London N1 2QN 0171 359 8814</p> <p>ALF Supporters Group BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX 100002.1616@compuserve.com</p>	<p>c/o PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY</p> <p>Anarchist-Primitivist Network PO Box 252, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3AY</p> <p>Anti-Fascist Action BM Box 1734, London WC1N 3XX</p> <p>Against Quarries Action (AQUA) Kimberly Mill Park, King's Steignton TQ12 3NR 01626 363844</p> <p>Campaign Legal Group (self-training) 43 Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock, Wigan WN3 5BJ 01942 513792</p> <p>Disabled Action Network 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London N22 6AN 0181 8891361</p> <p>Earth Circus Network (arts/education) CREATE Centre Smeaton Road Bristol BS1 6XN 0117 9250505</p> <p>EarthRights (env. law &amp; right to protest advice) <b>Law Centre Federation, Duchess House, 18-19 Warren St, London W1P 5DB</b> 07071 225011 <a href="mailto:earthrights@gn.apc.org">earthrights@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>Environmental Ploughshares (affinity group-based NVDA) Box W, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ</p> <p>Forest Action Network (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 <a href="mailto:fanuk@envirolink.org">fanuk@envirolink.org</a></p> <p>Gandalf Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP <a href="mailto:lpp@envirolink.org">lpp@envirolink.org</a></p> <p>Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) (as for RTS) 0181 374 9516 <a href="mailto:genetics@gn.apc.org">genetics@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>genetiX snowball (open crop removal) 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS 0161-834 0295 <a href="mailto:genetixsnowball@orange.co.uk">genetixsnowball@orange.co.uk</a></p> <p>Green Anarchist Network BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX</p> <p>Head State Support Group 72 Park Road, Worthing BN11 2AN</p> <p>Hunt Saboteurs Association PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX 01273 622827 <a href="mailto:hsa@gn.apc.org">hsa@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>Friends of MOVE PO Box 14129, London W12 8GR</p> <p>The Land is Ours (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 722016</p> <p>Legal Defence &amp; Monitoring Group BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX 0181 5337116</p>	<p>(boats/training) <b>PO Box 1377, Sheffield S36 4BZ</b> <b>01226 762359</b> <a href="mailto:pp3mo@aol.com">pp3mo@aol.com</a></p> <p>London GreenPeace &amp; McLibel Support Campaign 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX 0171 713 1269 <a href="mailto:info@mcspotlight.org">info@mcspotlight.org</a></p> <p>No Opencast 190 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NL 0171 603 1831</p> <p>Parents' Action Network Brambles Housing Co-op, 82 Andover St, Sheffield S3 9EH 0114 279 7164</p> <p>Road Alert! PO Box 5544, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7YB <a href="mailto:roadalert@gn.apc.org">roadalert@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>Save the Hillgrove Cats Box CB, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford 0121 632 6460</p> <p>Spirit of Freedom (Earth Lib. Prisoners) c/o BM HEAL, London WC1N 3XX</p> <p>Subvertising Standards Agency c/o Corporate Watch <a href="mailto:vernify@patrol.i-way.co.uk">vernify@patrol.i-way.co.uk</a></p> <p>Third Battle of Newbury PO Box 5642, Newbury RG14 5WG 07000 785201 <a href="mailto:thirdbattle@hotmail.com">thirdbattle@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Trident Ploughshares 2000 (anti-nuke direct disarmament) (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 <a href="mailto:reforest@gn.apc.org">reforest@gn.apc.org</a></p> <p>URGENT (greenbelt housing network) Box HN, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ 01865 721366 <a href="mailto:info@urgent.org.uk">info@urgent.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>AUTONOMOUS ZONES</b></p> <p>Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (monthly) 0117 939 3746</p> <p>Alvis Peace Camp (Scorpion tanks to Indonesia) outside Alvis Factory, North View, Walsgrave Triangle, Coventry CV2 2SP 01926 338805/0336 774113</p> <p>Anarchist Teapot Box B, Public House Bookshop, 21 Little Preston Street, Brighton BN1 2HQ <a href="mailto:teapot@brighton.co.uk">teapot@brighton.co.uk</a></p> <p>Arthur's Wood (air travel/trees) <b>c/o Manchester EF!</b> 07775-602954/0161 998 1888</p> <p>Ashton Court (quarry) c/o FoE, 10-12 Picton Street, Montpellier, Bristol BS6 5QA 07970 423834/0467 430211</p>	<p>Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131 557 6242</p> <p>BREATHE development/road) The Old LMS Station Rewley Rd, Oxford OX1 0797 0343486 <a href="mailto:nomoreroads@hotmail.com">nomoreroads@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>BARC (Bingley Anti- Road Campaign) Rye Loaf Camp, Bingley BD16 2HZ 0961 367421</p> <p>Birmingham Northern Relief Road Campaign Greenwood Protest Site, London Road, Canwell, nr Sutton Coldfield, W.Midlands 07970 301978/932224</p> <p>Crystal Palace (development) Big Willow Ecovillage, Palace Parade, London SE19 0181 653 8977/659 3301/0467 355381</p> <p>Derby (development) Bass Recreation Ground, Derby DE1 2DW 0797 0318397/01332 727237 <a href="mailto:reclaim@mcmail.com">reclaim@mcmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Silver Birches Camp 9, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey</b> <b>0411-306330</b></p> <p>Fastlane Peace Camp Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland G84 8NT 01436 820901</p> <p>Kebele Community Centre 14 Robertson Road, Eastville, Bristol BS5 6JY 0117 939 9469 <a href="mailto:kebele@mailexcite.com">kebele@mailexcite.com</a></p> <p>Menwith Womyns' Peace Camp (spybase) <b>Kettlesing Head LayBy,</b> Nr Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG3 2RA 01943 468593</p> <p><b>OKasional cafe c/o Manchester EF!</b></p> <p>121 Centre (infoshop +) 121 Raiton Road, Brixton London SE24 0171 274 6655</p> <p>1 in 12 Club 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1 2LY 01274 734160</p> <p>Radstock Railway (development) 2, Frome Road, Radstock BA3 3PY 01761 432273</p> <p><b>Friends of Lyminge Forest</b> c/o 3 Abbott Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1NG 01303 257046/265737/ 0468 945595 <a href="mailto:merlin@envirolink.org">merlin@envirolink.org</a></p> <p><b>Green Guard, Nantwich (housing)</b> c/o 219, Alton Street, Crewe, Cheshire PV7 9EN <b>01270 560645</b></p> <p>Sellafield Women's Peace Camp (bimonthly) 0113 262 1534</p>	<p><b>toytown Camp (development/trees) The Old Village, Great Western Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3QN0797 131 6597/ 01242 525280 <a href="mailto:toytown@stones.com">toytown@stones.com</a></b></p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL</b></p> <p>A SEED Europe PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands +31-20 6682236 <a href="mailto:aseedeur@antenna.nl">aseedeur@antenna.nl</a></p> <p>Autonomous Green Action POB 4721, Station E, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5H9, Canada</p> <p>Action For Social Ecology Box 34089, 10026 Stockholm, Sweden <a href="mailto:ekologisten@usa.net">ekologisten@usa.net</a></p> <p>Australian EF! AU PO Box 3163, South Brisbane 4101, Australia <a href="mailto:ef_au@hotmail.com">ef_au@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Coast Mountains EF! 1472 Commercial Drive, Box 128, Vancouver V5L 3X9, Canada +1- 604-708 9660</p> <p>Czech Republic EF! Zeme predevsim! PO Box 237, 16041 Prague 6, Czech Republic <a href="mailto:zemepredevsim@czn.cz">zemepredevsim@czn.cz</a></p> <p>Earth First! Journal POB 1415, Eugene OR 97440, USA +1-541-344 8004 <a href="mailto:earthfirst@igc.apc.org">earthfirst@igc.apc.org</a></p> <p>Ecodefense! Moskovsky prospekt 120-34236006 Kaliningrad/ Koenigsburg Russia <a href="mailto:ecodefense@glas.apc.org">ecodefense@glas.apc.org</a></p> <p>Finland EF! Viivinkatu 17 AS 17, 33610 Tampere 61, Finland <a href="mailto:ransu@sci.fi">ransu@sci.fi</a></p> <p>FIN Umweltprojektwerkstatt, Yorkstrasse 59 HH, 10965 Berlin, Germany +49-30 78913144</p> <p>Groene Front! Postbus 85069, 3508 AB Utrecht, The Netherlands <a href="mailto:ruigoord@hotmail.com">ruigoord@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Pobal an Dulra 242 Sunset Drive, Cartron Point, Sligo, Eire</b> +353 71 44348 <a href="mailto:diarmo@indigo.ie">diarmo@indigo.ie</a></p> <p>Poland EF! PO Box 40, 43-304 Bielsko-Biala 4 Poland +48-33 183153 <a href="mailto:wapnica@prywatniost.org.pl">wapnica@prywatniost.org.pl</a></p> <p>Rainbow Keepers (Ukraine) PO Box 322, Kiev 252187, Ukraine <a href="mailto:nadia@gluk.apc.org">nadia@gluk.apc.org</a></p> <p>Volunteers For Earth Defence 189 San Antonio Ext SFD, 1105 Quezon City, Philippines</p>
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## WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or a campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop, and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants. The above contacts are autonomous groups that consider themselves to share these principles. International contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other contacts are ones whose aims and principles are ones that we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups' web addresses, [www.k2net.co.uk/ef](http://www.k2net.co.uk/ef)

NEW ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS ARE SHOWN IN BOLD.